

August 1983.

Next Meeting.

The majority of our Society's members are members of the RSGB. For this reason the committee thought it appropriate to invite one of the Officers of the RSGB to visit us to remind us of the many services of our National Society. John Nelson G4FRX who is the membership Services Officer will come to Chelmsford on Tuesday August 2nd. The venue for the lecture is the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford at 7.30 p.m. This is a lecture not to be missed to find out exactly what our National Society does on our behalf.

Meeting to come. October - Annual General Meeting.

Committee Meeting. August 10th, 7.30 p.m. Sportsmans Arms, Hatfield Peverel. All welcome.

Report on last months meeting.

Once again a problem in judging. It is always difficult to compare entries employing entirely different constructional techniques, complexity and skill demands; let alone considerations of effectiveness, novelty and aesthetic appeal, etc. Nevertheless the three judges (John G3MKX, Ian G4BYR and John G3KRZ) bravely (and unanimously) concluded that the battery chargers presented by Roy, G3PMX, justified first place; and that the entries of a 6m transverter by Les, G4CUT, and an ATU, Dummy Load and Crystal marker by Martin, G4TOO, justified equal second place. The entry of a keyer by Walter, G3BLR, also justifies mention - perhaps we should have a fourth prize in future? Perhaps there is not so much construction these days as in the past, but building is a part of the hobby we cannot ignore, so with eleven more meetings before the next competition, there is plenty of time to build something for next year.

Silent Key.

It is with regret the Society records that Eric Parker, G6EGK, passed away on the 22nd July, Eric was a regular at club meetings and will be missed by all his friends on 2m and 70 cms.

New Member.

The Society extends a welcome to Paul Tittensor, G4PVM.

Raffle.

At the last meeting we drew the 'Jackpot raffle'. The winner was Ken, G3LVP, who is going to choose his RSGB book soon, well done Ken. Don't forget, raffle tickets 20p for 5 for the draw on the night and a free ticket is given with every five for the 'Jackpot' drawn every six months.

DF Part 1 - RSGB Event - Dick G3WHR.

If there's one DF event I view with a little less enthusiasm, its the Dartford Heath Qualifier. Its always difficult, in previous years I have been lost in lanes, soaked in a swamp, mired in the Medway, torn by thorns ... etc., yet somehow I found myself driving up to the start at, where else, Dartford Heath. Both signals audible at the start; one east and one south west. Decide to go SW first, its only a short distance to the edge of the map, so less margin for error. Two bearings later I was running through a golf course; natives very friendly, "the others went that way, have a nice day". A bit of bush beating then I joined the queue to get my form signed at 2.50. Back to the car. Can't use the motorway because it might be jammed, so its cross country motoring through the lanes to the A2. After a bit of fast driving the frustrating wait for a transmission. At last, a signal - what, that way ! - well follow your set. Road getting very narrow now, no room to pass. A parked car on the right - Brian Bristow's, no one about. A car coming the other way - Mike Hawkins, have brief words. 4.00 transmission, only 30 minutes to go, get out and run "you won't make it Dick", Aha! Bristow, "it's over 3 miles away - use the road". Typical Dartford Heath, its off the map driving; have to guess it, turn right then look for a side road. Lots of DF cars here, Hawkins again. Overgrown hillside, 1 in 7 slope, thought it was too easy. Continuous transmission now, less than 15 minutes; need armour to get through here. This is silly, fancy shoving your entry form into a hole in the ground. Ugh! like a creature from the black lagoon, a grimy hand takes it, and signs it !. Hmm, 4.27, nearly the one station blues. Tea and the results, 4th - thats not bad; qualified - thats fantastic; where's the final - Manchester !!!

Extracts from Dartford Heath results :-

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|-------------|----|--------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Bill North | - | Mid-Thames. | 4 | Dick Brocks | - | Chelmsford. |
| 2 | Mike Hawkins | - | Chelmsford. | 5 | Eric Mollart | - | Mid-Thames. |
| 3 | Alan Williams | - | Braintree. | 12 | Ian Butson | - | Colchester. |

- some never found them !

DF Part 2 - Chelmsford Event July 15th - Dick G3WHR.

In glorious sunshine, eight teams set out from Tiptree Heath. The hidden station was provided by Alan Williams G4PGY/P who was in a wood near Greenstead Green. Most competitors arrived on site fairly quickly but despite much bush beating and ditch walking, failed to locate the transmitter. Finally, either pity or (more likely) thirst caused some competitors to reveal to the less enlightened, the location of the antenna, when followed this led to where Alan was concealed - half way up a holly tree ! Results below :-

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|--------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Mike Hawkins | G3WMM | 8.11 | Dick Brocks | G3WHR | 8.52 |
| Frank Pearson | G4JVM | 8.19 | Peter Larbalestier | G4TEB | 8.53 |
| Andy Haynes | G6HTD | 8.29 | Jeff Herbert | G4JJH | 8.53 ¹ / ₂ |
| Ian Butson | G4HKC | 8.30 | Roy Emeny | G4JAC | 8.55 |

Future events:- Colchester 5th August. Chelmsford 12th August. RSGB National Final 18th September.

Here and There - Ela G6HKM.

Carl our Chairman has not been too well recently, so best wishes for a speedy recovery Carl, (the committee needs you). Best wishes also to Keith G6RBL who was married on the 23rd July, no excuses for not getting to club meetings Keith, you are living right on the door step now ! Sylvia XYL of Geoff G3EDM has offered to be our 'Tea Lady', many thanks Sylvia, another reprieve from that dreaded Tea Machine. Bill G4JUW has a new HF aerial on the skyline, good DX Bill (hope the neighbours are friendly).

A new country is now active on the 50MHz band, GJ4ICD has relinquished his 50MHz permit, and has been replaced by GU2HML, Les, G4CUT, has already worked this station. On 1st July Les worked TF1T (Iceland) who was using just 10W and a 3 element yagi, on 5th July Les had an incomplete contact with WA1UKV. Les has now worked 20 out of the 46 allocated permits, well done Les.

The next edition of the RSGB Call Book is expected to be published early 1984, (start saving now).

Braintree & District Amateur Radio Society meet twice a month, and visitors are welcomed, meetings to come are Aug.1st. 'Operating Practices & Procedures', with emphasis on HF working by Danny G3YXJ. Aug.15th 'History of Teleprinting' by Len G3PED, Sept.5th Quiz evening. Meetings are held at the Braintree Community Centre, Victoria St. (next to Bus Park), doors open 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 start.

I (Ela) have just received my first award, the RSGB 144MHz 60 Squares/15 Countries, all worked and confirmed in my first year of operating, I'm well on the way to the next sticker, (thank you RSGB QSL Bureau, you have served me well).

Any items of news, what you are or have been doing would be appreciated, its always nice to hear about other members activities.

73,

Andrew.

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